Mr. K. T. Mathew.—I think the Excise Commissioner will do the needful. What are the objects for giving occasional licenses for fairs and festivals?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—A large number of people come, and so there is a greater demand for liquor. Unless that demand is properly met, there will be illicit liquor traffic.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—There was a discussion about this matter in the Madras Legislative Council, and the Hon'ble Member in charge stated that no special license was issued for fairs and festivals.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There is a provision in the Madras Sale Rules empowering Collectors to grant such licenses.

Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Now, may I point out that some people in Madras tried to get license during the Park-fair, but it was not granted.

President.—That is a different matter.

Applications for jaggery tapping.

444. **Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(a) The total number of applications for jaggery tapping received between the first and the last day of Karkadagam during the years 1098, 1099 and 1100 and the number of such applications during the first 3 months respectively of 1099, 1100 and 1101?

(b) How many of the 1st set of applicants were given their licenses before the last day of Karkadagam of the year of their applications?

How many of the 2nd set of applicants were given their licenses before the close of the month of their applications? What is the longest and the average delay between the date of the applications and the grant of licenses?

(c) What is the reason for the delay?

(d) How does the Government account for the large number of applications during the last 3 months of the year than those at the end of the previous year?

(e) Is the T. T. application form made available for tappers anywhere than from the Aminadars and Inspectors of the Department?

(f) Is any price realised to the Government by the sale of these T. T. forms?

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Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) In Karkadagam

1098.....nil
1099.....3 supplemental applications
1100.....2 original and 2 supplemental

In the 1st quarter of

1099.....1,580 original and 107 supplemental
1100.....1,800 original and 150 supplemental
1101.....1,746 original and 157 supplemental.

(b) In respect of the first set licenses were issued to al the applicants in Karkadagam itself.

As regards the 2nd set also, licenses were issued to all without any delay.

Government do not consider it worth while to pick up the information from the old records, which is a laborious and difficult task.

(c) No answer is required in view of the reply to (b).

(d) Jaggery licenses are current only till the close of the year. At the end of the year fresh licenses have to be obtained, and this accounts for the large number referred to.

(e) Yes. They can be got also from the Tahsildars and from the Office of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue.

(f) No. The forms are issued free.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—May I know the average delay for obtaining a license granted, i. e. the least delay?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—There is practically no delay. For, as soon as the tree tax is paid into the Treasury, there will also be an application for tree tapping presented along with it. It is in duplicate. The original application will be sent to my office and the duplicate given to the applicant. He takes it to the Inspector, and the Inspector sends it to the Aminadar. It is done generally in a single day or the next day and then he gets the tree marked by the Aminadar. It will serve as a temporary license. As soon as he gets the temporary license, he begins to tap.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—How many days will it take for a temporary license to be granted?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I say within 24 hours it can be had. As soon as the money is remitted into the Trea-

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sury, he gets the temporary license and he begins tapping ; so that for all practical purposes there is no delay.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Are no cases charged by the department of tappers having begun tapping 10 or 15 days after remitting money into the Treasury ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I do not think there have been cases of that kind. There is a provision that, if within a reasonable period the applicant does not point out to the Excise Officer the trees for marking he will forfeit the amount, and the tapping will not be allowed.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—That is not what I want. A person who was tapping will be doing so to the end of the year. If he wants to tap on the 1st day of the next year, he must have the license. That is, the tapper must put in a fresh application before the closing of the year. From the statistics supplied here, we find that at the close of the year 1098 no application was made. In 1099 no original application was made, and in 1100 two original applications were seen to be made. All the other applications were made in the beginning of the next year. No tapper seems to have applied before the close of the year. Are there special reasons for these tappers not putting applications, early in 1101 ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—We cannot account for the omission of the tappers.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—But has anybody submitted a complaint till now ?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Not till now. I have not received any complaint.

Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—I myself went as a complainant

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—Not on this ground but in the capacity of a vakil. I do remember that.

President.—Order, please.

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I shall explain the matter. He came in as a vakil. He said he had no vakkalat. They were, most of them, fresh petitioners. Most of them have been given licenses for tapping subsequently. The allegation was that the tapping applications were not certified without some payment being given to the Aminadar. I have got the petition. I forwarded the petition to the Inspector for immediate remarks. I have not met with any case similar to that put forth by the Hon'ble Member; that is, such a complaint has not reached me.

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Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.—Has the Hon'ble Member got it with him?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—It is in my office.

President.—Do these Aminadars delay in certifying?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—I have heard some complaints about Aminadars, but for want of proof I could not deal with them, I don't claim any special immunity from human failings for the officers of my department but the difficulty is to get evidence. I am trying my very best to take severe measures, but then it is very difficult to get evidence, Whenever I find an incident of that kind, I punish them,

Importations of foreign jaggery into the State.

445. **Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.**—(a) Is the Government aware that jaggery is being imported into our State in large quantities from Travancore and British Malabar? If so, what is the quantity annually imported? If the answer is in the negative, will the Government be pleased to make enquiries and state the quantity of jaggery annually imported?

(b) Is the Government aware of the disabilities attending jaggery tapping in our State?

(c) Will the Government be pleased to make inquiries and state why foreign jaggery is sold cheaper here than home made jaggery?

(d) Is any duty imposed upon jaggery imported by the Travancore Government, and does our Government impose any duty upon jaggery imports?

Mr. V. B. Vaidyanatha Ayyar.—(a) Jaggery is being imported from Travancore and British Malabar. No statistics are available, and an enquiry of the kind suggested is not practicable.

(b) Government are not aware of any. In fact no real disabilities exist.

(c) The matter will be referred to the Economic Development Committee for investigation.

(d) No information is available as regards the first part of the question. The Cochin Government do not levy any duty on imported jaggery.

Complaints from tappers about the conduct of the Excise Officers.

446. **Mr. Chakko Cheruvathur.**—(a) Has the Government received any petition during the last 6 years from tappers,

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